(b) if so, what are the reasons for , closure of the old workshop and whether Government are contemplating to utilize the existing building and machi. neries?

THE MINISTER OP RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railways on account of ope. rational necessities, and for increasing efficiency and bringing about economy, have decided to replace steam locomotives by the year 2000 A number of steam staff has been retained at the same place of work as they were engaged in other activities which would continue to remain at the station. The maintenance staff rendered surplus are being redeployed at the same or nearby locations after re-training. Railway as a policy do not retrench any staff. The steps have been taken in consultation with the recognised unions. Any useful material, machinery and plant etc. which is no longer required at their present location would be shifted to alternative areas in the national interest.

Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabacl Railway line from M.G. to B,G,

149. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the present position with regard to the conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge railway line in Manmad-Aurangabad sector;

(b) by when the project was originally scheduled to be completed and by when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the completion of the project and what steps are contemplated by Gov ernment to accelerate the process of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Physical progress of 69 per cent has been achieved as on 15-11-1990,

(b) and (c) The Manmad-Aurangabad project was originally scheduled for completion by 31-12-1991. Efforts are being made to advance the date of completion by 6 months.

Short supplies of consumer goods at Fair Price Shops

150. SHRi ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Pal-molein Cooking Oils are in short supply and are mostly not available at Fair Price Shops in the various parts of the country; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make these items available freely at the Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN); (a) and (b) No reports of such shortages of rice, wheat and sugar have been received from State Govts./ UT Administrations. There are ade-quate stocks of rice, wheat and sugar in the Central Pool. There is, however, shortage of palmolein, currently, due to lack of import. Government is however, considering measures to remedy the situation. PDS allocations, nevertheless, are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the entire requiremnt of States/ UTs.

Conversion of Ernakulam-Kottayam Trivandrum railway line

151. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will th< Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state;

(a) whether there is any proposa under Government's consideration convert Ernakulam-Kottayam-Trivan drum railway line as a double line and

(b) if so by when the project ! f likely to be completed; if not, the ref) (son_s therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILYAWS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) On Ernakulam-Kottayam-Tri-vandrum section of Southern Railway, an alternative BG line has been proposed for construction between Ernakulam-Kayankulam. Of thi$_s$ Ernaku-lam-Alleppey (57 kms.) has already been commissioned on 15.10.1989, Work on Alleppey-Kayankulam (43 kms.) is in progress and is targetted for opening in 1991-92. When com pleted, it will provide two single lines between Ernakulam and Kayankulam-one via Alleppey and the other via Kottayam—the existing route. Doubling between Ka/yankulam and Quilon (41 kms.) was approved in the Budget for 1989-90 and the work i$_s$ in progress. Boubling between Quilon-Trivandrum (65 kms.) has been included in the Budget for 1990-91. Completion of doubling on Kayankulam-Quilon-Trivandrum will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming year.

स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को आवास दिया जाना

152. श्री विश्वा रराव रामराव पाटिल : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि दिल्ली में स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को उप-राज्यपाल के कोटे से आवास स्वीकृत किए जाते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है तथा ऐसी स्वीकृति दिए जाने के मान-दण्ड क्या हैं ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्री दौलत राम सारण) :' (क) और (ख) दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण अध्यक्ष/उपाध्यक्ष वर्ष के दौरान आवंटित फ्लैटों की कुल संख्या के अधिकतम 2.5% तक बिना बारी आधार पर आवंटन अनुकम्पा, अत्याधिक कठिनाई के आधार पर तथा श्रेष्ठ खिलाड़ी, शौर्य पुरस्कार विजेता, रक्षा कार्मिकों एवं राष्ट्रीय जीवन के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उत्कृष्ट सेवा करने वाले अन्य व्यक्तियों को कर सकते हैं। तथापि, स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों के लिए कोई अलग कोटा नहीं है।

Short supply of seeds in U.P.

153. SHRT SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is short supply of seeds through Government and cooperative seed stores in Uttar Pradesh causing hardship to peasants in this rabi season;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would plan for adequate supply of such seeds for rabi and kharif crops in the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL TURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mainly there has been shortage of Seeds of late sowing varieties of wheat during the Rabi season this year. In some districts of the State during the Rabi season 1989-90, the seed of the farmers got wet due to untimely rains and became unfit for sowing. Apart from this, the state government has made provision for giving subsidy on Rabi Seeds. Due to these two factors, the demand of seeds from Government and Cooperative godowns increased relatively, although this year the distribution of wheat seeds was more than last year.

(c) Uttar Pradesh government have "nformed that they have made adequate arrangement.